

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of 07 June 2006. Claims 1-58 were originally filed. Claim 1-10, 12-25, 27-37, 39-40, 46-54, and 56-58 are presently pending. Claims 1, 12, 13, 17, 42, 46, and 56 are amended. Claims 11, 26, 38, 41-45, and 55 are cancelled or withdrawn. No new claims are added.

Allowable Claims

The Office indicates that **Claims 11-13, 26-28, 38, 55-56** are objected to, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Independent **Claim 1** was rewritten to include features of allowed Claim 11, and hence is in condition for allowance. **Claims 1-10 and 14-16** depend from amended Claim 1 and hence are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 has been amended into independent form herein incorporating all the features of independent Claim 1 from which it depended, and hence is in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 has been amended into independent form herein incorporating all the features of independent Claim 1 from which it depended, and hence is in condition for allowance.

Independent **Claim 17** was rewritten to include features of allowed Claim 26, and hence is in condition for allowance. **Claims 18-25 and 27-31** depend from amended Claim 17 and hence are now in condition for allowance.

Independent **Claim 32** was rewritten to include features of allowed Claim 38, and hence is in condition for allowance. **Claims 33-37 and 39-40** depend from amended Claim 32 and hence are now in condition for allowance.

Independent **Claim 46** was rewritten to include features of allowed Claim 55, and hence is in condition for allowance. **Claims 47-54 and 57-58** depend from amended Claim 46 and hence are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 56 has been amended into independent form herein incorporating all the features of independent Claim 46 from which it depended, and hence is in condition for

Appl. No. 10/617,924

allowance.

Claim 23 has been amended into independent form herein incorporating all the features of independent Claim 18 from which it depended, and hence is in condition for allowance.

Applicants canceled those claims whose allowability has not yet been recognized. This leaves only the pending claims whose allowability has been expressly recognized by rewriting dependent claims into independent format or incorporating the dependencies of some of the allowed dependent claims into their base claims rather than just canceling the rejected base claims.

The substantive rejections of claims 1-10, 14-25, 29-37, 39-54, and 58-59, under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 103, are moot since these claims have withdrawn from consideration in their original form. Applicants withdrew these claims from consideration without prejudice and solely for the purpose of speeding along issuance of other claims that the Office indicates are allowable or would be allowable if re-written into independent form. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce these claims at a later date.

Conclusion

All of the rejections in the Office Action of 07 June 2006 have been responded to, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims 1-10, 12-25, 27-37, 39-40, 46-54, and 56-58 are in condition for allowance.

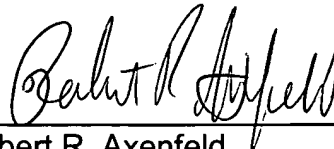
Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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